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THE WEATHER.

Washington, March 22 .- For Oklahoma and Indian Territory: Local snows in the morning, followed by fair weather; colder in eastern and warmer in western por-

For Missouri: Threatening weather and showers: north winds; colder. For Kansas: Local snows, followed by clearing weather; colder in eastern and

Stations.	Bar.	7 pm	Pre.	W'th'r
Bismarck, N.D	36,48	14	.00	Clear
Des Moines, la	20,10	40	.00	Clear
Duluth, Minn	30.18	36		Clear
Helena, Mont	30.24	28		Cloudy
Kansas City, Mo	29.96	48		Cloudy
New Orleans, La	29,82	74	T	Fair
St. Louis, Mo	29.96	48	.00	Cloudy
St. Paul, Minn	30.18	34	.00	Cloudy
Balt Lake, U	39.48	32	.00	Clear
Springfield, Mo	29.90	50	T	Cloudy

A PLAIN DUTY.

In every community there is a gang of messbacks who stubbornly oppose public improvements. They are respectable citizens and taxpayers, but they are nonprogressive, unenterprising and devoid of genuine public spirit. They don't object to improvements in themselves, but they most strenuously object to the added burdens in the way of taxation they will be called on to pay.

This class of obstructionists have to be met and overcome in every city that ever amounts to anything. There is not a large city in the country but had to deal with and down precisely this kind of opposition in establishing parks and other improvements that have helped their growth and prosperity so materially. They are not a new obstacle in Kansas City's progress. We have had mossbacks in our way for many years. They were here when the Harnibal bridge was built, and opposed that structure, which was so necessary to the town's success, as arduously as they are now opposing parks.

There is only one course to take with obstructionists of this sort-drive the chariot of progress right over them and go ahead with the work of city building. The council cannot afford to trifle with the plain instructions received from the people in this important matter. The the council to commit a more unpopular folly than to repeal these ordinances at the behest of the mossbacks who are striving so hard to save a few dollars of

A HUSBAND'S LIABILITY.

The judges of the Kansas City court of appeals, with a fine regard for the popular effect of a decision touching a vital domestic subject, have shouldered upon the supreme court of the state the responsibility of deciding whether or not a man is responsible for his wife's tongue.

The case in question comes from Holt county. A man and his wife are sued jointly by a young woman of whom the wife is said to have made some slanderous remark. The question naturally prises whether the husband can be held by law to answer for the speech of the wife, when the speech is made without his presence, knowledge or consent.

Judges Smith, Ellison and Gill, in their report, say that they are not agreed on the case, and for that reason have referred it to a higher tribunal. They carefully refrain, however, from stating which were for and which against joint liability. The man who is known to be for might as well say farewell to the pomp and circumstance of glorious politics. Political consideration for married voters evidently caused the judges to withhold a decision that, based upon the letter of the law, must make the husband liable for his wife's ut-

It will be interesting to watch how the final reference of so important a question will be met. If the decision is in favor of joint liability, think of the blow that would be dealt the marriage institution. It would require a man of supreme disregard for consequences or one of dense ignorance of possibilities to enter into the matrimonial

state under such circumstances. The question is fraught with particularly grave importance at this time. Shall the old man be accountable for the sayings of the new woman? Shall such modest and cautious fellows as Charlie Lease be held responsible for the venomous tirades of such assertive and daring women as Mary Ellen? Is Jones to be made a particeps criminis in what Mrs. Jones says of Mrs.

Smith's bonnet, bloomers or morals? Never! never!! never!!! The old man is still ready, as he has always been, to stand sponsor for the conduct and speech of the old woman who superintends his house and does most of his praying; but the law must be construed or amended so as to exempt him from liabillty for the various expressions of the irresponsible and irrepressible new woman

The president's selection of J. L. Bristow. of Kansas, for fourth assistant postmaster general, notice of which was first given to Kansas and Missouri readers in The Journal's Washington correspondence, created some surprise. It was hardly expected that this important office would be given to a Populist state when there were so many strong Republican states waiting for official recognition. Many Kansas people thought, also, that the protest of the Republican members of the state senate would have weight with the administration. However, Major McKinley has shown considerable partiality for Kansas in the past; he has visited the state several times and de-

livered addresses in response to invitations on one or two occasions when the engagement conflicted with urgent invitations elsewhere. The Kansas delegation at Washington was united in Mr. Bristow's behalf, and it is well understood that the president is guided largely by the wishes of senators and representatives in making appointments in the different states. Both Mr. Bristow and Kansas are to be congratulated on this handsome recognition. It is hoped, however, that if Mr. Bristow is to permitted to exercise the usual functions of out an ax and a chance to use it would be something in the nature of a hollow mockery. It would strike Kansas particularly as a rank cheat.

CITY. The scheme for the holding of annual musical festivals in Kansas City, which was discussed at a meeting of business and professional men yesterday, should attract the attention and enlist the support of every musician and every lover of mu-... 31 and 22 Tribune Builting, New York sie in the city, not to speak of those whose interest in the subject is incidental rather than actual.

Twenty years ago Cincinnati entered upon such an enterprise with less equipment and fewer advantages than Kansas City has to-day. It took five years to make the Cincinnati festivals great enough to attract the attention and arouse the admiration of the entire country; but the recollections and the fame of those events will live ten times five years. They gave that city a reputation for musical culture and appreciation that has been of inestimable advantage to it as a place of residence.

The taste for, and the appreciation of, music have advanced wonderfully in Kansas City within the past five years. We now have several large, well equipped and ably conducted instrumental organizations. several small but able choruses, and an unusual number of successful soloists and instructors who draw largely from the surrounding country.

A musical festival that would unite the forces of the city and call into service smaller choruses from neighboring towns could be made one of the great annual events. Unlike the other annual attractions, this one would not only bring spectators from the outside, but it would bring participants as well.

It should also be remembered that those who would seek such entertainment would necessarily be a superior class of peoplethe class that Kansas City would like to induce to become a part of her population. We have taken excellent care of our commercial advantages, and have lost few opportunities to invite inspection and comparison along business lines. The musical festival idea offers something different. but has possibilities quite as interesting,

A PRINCIPLE INVOLVED.

The queer notions people sometimes get into their heads are beyond accounting for. Half a dozen Kansas papers have printed editorials in defense of Superintendent of Insurance Webb McNall, in which it is declared that Mrs. Hillmon is clearly entitled to a verdict of \$60,000 against the three contesting insurance companies because they have been unable to produce John W. Hillmon in the flesh and blood.

It is neither the legal nor moral duty of the insurance companies to produce Hillmon as a witness, though they would no park ordinances are all right and they doubt gladly do so if they knew how. It is panies to prove that Hillmon is alive, but the obligation of the beneficiaries to prove that he is dead. The law throws the burden of proof upon the claimant, and no well regulated mind will deny the absolute justice of this. Whenever Mrs. Hillmon can convince a jury that her husband was dead at the time the suit was brought she will be entitled to fecover, and not until then. In discussing this remarkable case the

Kansas papers have all overlooked one important curcumstance. The three companles which are resisting payment of the Hillmon claim are mutual organizations Their officers are fighting the claim in the interests of the policy holders all over the United States. It is their duty to protect these policy holders into the last ditch, for the collection of a fraudulent claim means robbery of the premium payers who can ill afford to stand it. Indeed, under the circumstances of this case, the officers of all three of these companies would have been recreant to the trust reposed in them if they had not fought to the bitter end. That there is justification for his fight need be argued no further than the statement that the coroner's jury which sat in inquest over the dead body alleged to be Hillmon unanimously decided that it was not Hillmon, but some unknown man. If in the face of this verdict the officers of the companies had not resisted payment they should have been prosecuted for complicity in a robbery of the policy holders.

But the question is not which side of this remarkable legal controversy is in the right. It may be that Hillmon is dead, and that he died in the manner alleged by his wife. It may also be true that the many juries which have tried this case and failed to agree were blind to justice. In short let us grant, for sake of argument, anything in this direction which the Hillmon side of the case may see fit to claim-and still there is not the shadow of justification for the act of Superintendent McNall in taking the case out of the hands of the courts into his own and passing judgment and inflicting penalty. The question is no whether the insurance companies are right or wrong, but whether Kansas has established an official higher than the federal courts, who can abolish the constitutional right to trial by jury and at his own good pleasure reach decision and sentence without so much as hearing the evidence. The constitution has established the courts as the sacred refuge of every citizen who believes himself to be wronged. They are the bulwark of our libertles and the protectors of our homes. They are the machinery of the law. Behind them stand anarchy and chaos, and he who attempts to overthrow them is an enemy of the public weal.

KANSAS NEW SCHOOL BOOK LAW. Just at present everything else in Kansas is taking a back seat to make way for a discussion of the new school book law, which went into effect by publication on Priday of last week. Briefly summarized. the law is this: State uniformity; a commission of eight persons, who shall be charged with selecting the books to be used; a maximum price, beyond which the contractors may not charge; a limitation of contracts to five years; a provision by which two-thirds of the voters of any school district may decide for district ownership of books; a standard of literary and mechanical excellence which all books must

force and effect.

It is claimed by the friends of the new law that a reduction of about 25 per cent will be worked in present prices, and it will be interesting to note the maximum rate established, as follows: For the spelling book, 10 cents; for the First reader, 16 cents; for the Second reader, 17 cents; for the Third reader, 23 cents; for the Fourth reader. 20 cents: for the Fifth reader, 40 cents: for the mental arithmetic, 20 cents occupy this important position he will be for the intermediate arithmetic, 25 cents; for the complete arithmetic, 35 cents; for the fourth assistant. Official axman with- the elementary geography, 30 cents; for the complete geography, 75 cents; for the English grammar, elementary, 20 cents; complete grammar, % cents; physiology and hygiene, 50 cents; for history of the United States, 50 cents; for elements of natural philosophy, 50 cents; for civil government 40 cents; for elementary algebra, 50 cents; for physical geography, 80 cents; for bookkeeping, 40 cents; writing books, 5 cents each.

It was claimed by the lobby of school book publishers present while this bill was under discussion that first-class books could not be produced at the prices named. While a number of books at present in use have been enumerated in the law as the stand ard to which the contract books must come the commission is made final judge, and whatever it agrees to accept will become the lawful text books, regardless of outside opinion. This feature probably accounts for the activity of certain well known "negotiators," who have been striving to secure places upon the commission.

The state decennial census of 1895 discloses that Kansas has 499,323 children of school age. We have not at hand the figures of school attendance. It is estimated by prominent educators that under the prices fixed by the new law it will cost each pupil \$1.25 to equip himself with books. Applying this to the children of school age, it is obvious that a cash outlay of \$624,152 will be required to put state uniformity into full effect. This is not exactly fair, however, for the law requires the contractor to exchange for the old books on a basis of 50 per cent of the value of the new, and this would reduce the outlay to \$312,076-to which must be added the 10 per

cent commission allowed the local agents. This seems like a tremendous burden to mpose upon the people of Kansas at a time when they are feeling so particularly hard up. That the people do not altogether approve of it is made manifest in the many contracts which were hastily made between school boards and publishers last week for a continuance of the books now in use. Such contracts enable the districts to evade the provisions of the new law for at least five years.

In the long run, however, Kansas will dis cover that the greatest hardship from this new law does not come from the money expended. State uniformity is wrong in principle and disadvantageous in practice. The books which are proper for a well equipped city school, which remains in session nine or ten months in the year, and which is supplied with apparatus far beyond the average, will not do at all for the country school, where the term may not be more than six months. It would vary only in degree from a system which required every boy, regardless of size, to wear trousers exactly thirty inches in length. Education is not something which can be shoveled into all alike. The boy who quits school on April 1 to help his father with the spring plowing is confronted with the problem of getting as much general knowlhe cannot, in justice to himself, spare time for the thorough delving into many branches which is practiced at the city schools. By state uniformity he is either nampered with a curriculmu unsuited to his station and opportunities, or else is permitted to drag his more fortunate city brother down to his own educational level. A law is wrong in principle which accomplishes either of these things, and we are confident that Kansas will live to rue the day she adopted state uniformity in text books.

The school book trust should be fought hard and uncompromisingly, and the people saved from its greedy extortions, but some other method of warfare should be used. State uniformity is neither advantageous in results nor effective as a weapon.

Some weeks ago it was announced that General Weyler had become wealthy in Cuba. Now the statement is made that somebody has been regularly drawing pay for thousands of Spain's dead soldiers in the island. Put this and that together and we have a pretty clear case of cause and

Colonel Watterson thinks the effort to keep the free silver movement alive is time wasted. But as those who are engaged in the effort would probably be wasting their time in some direction anyway, it is of no

The free trade organs are specially bitter against the reciprocity provisions of the new tariff. It greatly exasperates a free trader to think of this country getting anything in return for its valuable markets.

The public is not surprised that Mrs. Lease has decided to be a socialist. The public will not be surprised at any decision Mrs. Lease may make until she decides to become a good housewife.

Kansas and Missouri should give each other the cordial handshake. If their governors deal fairly with them, neither will have another session of the legislature for two years. John L. Sullivan insists that he is still

formidable man in the ring, and says he has challenged the winner. As the heavy comedian of pugilism John L. is certainly entitled to the bouquets. An Ohio official says there is no certain rule for determining a man's Democracy.

And that is true. Many Republicans and Populists also have red noses and want It may indicate lack of masculine susceptibility, but thus far the wiles of the

widow Dominis seem to have made no im-

The prairies in Western Kansas are covered with snow, and it is believed now that the wheat crop in that portion of the state is saved.

Fourth assistant postmaster general is pretty juicy plum for a Populist state.

Why Should It?

From the New York Sun. The defamers of virtue and the enviers of greatness are grinning unctuously over the remark which the speaker of the Kansas legislature is said to have made about that illustrious body: "This legislature doesn't know enough to come in out of the rain." If the remark be not apocryphal, it is evidence of a strange ignorance on the part of the speaker. A Populist legisla-ture doesn't have to know enough to come in out of the rain. It doesn't have to shield reach, and the required machinery for put- its sublime head with an umbrella. It sim-

ting all of the provisions into immediate ply has to pass a bill declaring that henceforth all rain in the state of Kansus shall fall upward, under the pains and penal ties hereinafter provided. If the Po ulist had nothing more difficult than the rain to deal with and abolish, they wouldn't have to have one-sixteenth as many con ventions.

MISSOURI POINTS.

Among the results of the revivalists' r cent efforts for the regeneration of Car-thage may be noticed the fact that the schedule price there of a plain drunk has been raised to \$5.

Since the reorganization of Joplin into special road district it has expended \$400 a month on the improvement of the thor-oughfares leading into the city.

Forty Jasper county miners have made up a load and will charter a car and go to Colorado in search of work.

An old-fashioned spelling match is talked of in Carthage, the purpose of which is to get the oldest inhabitants and the high chool pupils of the present day together in an orthographical fight to a finish. The banana appetite of the territory trib-

utary to Joplin has become so ravenou

that about a carload a day of the favorite tropical fruit is required for supplying its The Frisco road puts about \$50,000 a month into circulation in Springfield by

means of its local payroll. Along with other good effects resulting from the recent somewhat notable Nevada tournament in the interest of applied athletics may be listed the movement for the

organization of a business men's gymna-sium class at the Y. M. C. A. rooms in Springfield. Now that the state has taken control of the Confederate home at Higginsville, the emetery lot adjacent thereto will be placed in the hands of ladies named as trustees by the Daughters of the Confederacy, and the organization will direct its energies toward securing the erection there of appropriate monument to the Confederate

A meeting of the whist clubs of Missour to be held in Moberly April 2 and 3 for the purpose of organizing a state associa

Colonel Dick Speed, editor of the Nevad Mail, is said to be slated for the St. Louis coal oil inspectorship, one of the choicest plums on the tree, the net annual incom being figured at from \$8,000 to \$19,000.

Among the municipal improvements contemplated in Chillicothe this spring are a new fire and police station and an anticigarette ordinance.

Since they escaped personal violence durng their performances of the Greek play 'Antigone" in Springfield last week, the Drury college boys have begun to talk hreateningly of a descent upon Kansas City and St. Louis.

The Republicans who took part in the primaries of that party in Springfield Saturday night outnumbered by several hun-dred the voters who participated in the Democratic primaries the night before, and there is every reason to believe that the relative strength of the two organizations will be similarly shown on election day. Colonel and Mrs. Thomas F. Houston, at

their home near Housatonia, celebrated on Friday the fifty-second anniversary of their marriage, a privilege so rarely vouchsafed to any wedded couple as to be well worthy of special mention.

A finish fight for 350 marbles and the gate receipts, admission having been fixed at 5 cents, was unexpectedly prevented of heartless Sedalia mothers Saturday afternoon.

KANSAS TOPICS.

That Abilene clergyman whose last Sunday's text was "A Defective Reformation" edge as his limited hours will permit, and didn't mean anything at all, but every Popolist member of his congregation at home.

> The first duty before the investigation committee would seem to be to determin whether Senator Jumper was sober enough to know what Tucher really said when they had that bribery discussion in a Topeka joint. Here is another sample of Populist leg-

islation. The law providing for the pub-lication of the appellate court syllabi fixes the pay at 50 cents per square. The pay for printing the supreme court syllabi is 25 cents a square.

In view of the return of prosperity, Mr. Loan, of Phillips county, should lose no time in forming a partnership with Mr. Company, of Marshall county.

At Independence the other day a young lady recited "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight." Ever since she has been weeping her eyes out because in the climax she resound, "Go, your liver loves, said Crom-well." versed a couple of words and made it

Speaker Street has appeared in a newspaper interview in which he says: "I am proud of the fact that not a single appeal was taken from the decision of the chair. This would seem to imply an unco fine compliment for Charley Martin. Mrs. Ollie I. Royce says that if we

are to be made to remove their hats in theaters the men will next be clamoring for an enacting clause upon the ordinance of St. Paul, who said: "If a woman be

There was just one Republican in the lower house of the Idaho legislature, and of course he is a Kansas man-Mr. J. S. Walters, formerly of Labette county.

W. F. Guthrie, of Atchison, is already announced as a candidate for attorney gen-eral in 1898. He lost the Republican nomination in 1894 by a bad piece of general-

Rev. Wellman, of Perry, was the first man to strike the road with a lecture on the inauguration of McKinley. Topics is dead onto the weather they are

naving out in Western Kansas. On opening

the Santa Fe Monitor yesterday it was found to contain a teaspoonful of sand. John MacDonald refused to serve on the text book commission because he does not believe the law is a good one, and objects

to having his name mixed up with the failure which is bound to follow. Rev. Mr. Grassneck, of Gaylord, may at east be thankful that there is nothing elastic about it.

All of the old-timers appear to have re-covered their scent for the ple trail. J. H. Franklin has followed it down to the office of assistant auditor of the treasury at Washington.

Governor Leedy will take notice that while he is sorting over his cards for the special session game the railroad lobby has already made a lead. All of the sixtyday legislative passes have been taken up and annuals substituted in their stead.

The Topeka Free Silver Club has slumped into obscurity with about the same rapidity which attended the disappearance of Mr. W. J. Bryan. At the close of last fall's campaign it rented one of the finest rooms on Kansas avenue and announced that it intended to carry on the agitation until there wasn't a plutocrat left on the west side of the Missouri river. It couldn't pay the rent, however, and inside of two months had removed to a dingy little room in the abundoned court house. Pretty soon it got short of rent money for this, too, and was cast out. Then it disbanded, but none of its cheap leaders appears to have gone to work for a living.

The little town of Huron up in Atchiso

Two years ago a woman who believed her husband to be dead married again. She lived happily with her second spouse until last Wednesday, when her first husband got off the cars and walked over to her nome. There was no scene. The three in terested parties talked the matter over quietly,and the woman was given to under stand she might take her choice. She spent half an hour looking the men over and studying the situation, and then put on her things and went away with the first

Moanfully the March wind soughed acress the copper tiling of the state house roof. Gaunt shadows chased each other up and down the campus as the moon slipped in and out among the fitful clouds. "Hist!"

A form comes creeping from the eastern colonnades. It cringes close to the wails and furtively moves from window to window as though seeking entrance or a sight at what might be within.

"Hist!" Again comes the shrill warning, and two capitol guards slip after the moving

Stealthily it glides-now lost in the denser shadow of the towering dome and then flit-ting into sight again-but ever the two following shadows creep nearer and nearer. On, on, the shadows pursue until at las through the startled air comes the quick, stern command:

"Surrender! Hands up! Who are you?" With a low, sad cry like a soul cast out, the prisoner sinks to the ground. Sobs shake his frame and tears trickle through the fingers which he has clasped to his

"I am-_" He gasps, as he clutches at his hot, throbbing throat-

"I am Tucher, taking a long, last look." Sol Miller is a very sick man, but he manages to contribute something to his paper each week. In his last issue he thus de scribes the afflictions which have beset

"We have often heard the expression 'the Devil's own luck,' but never could appreciate it until now. How does this strike you for a three months' record? First, robbed of a large amount of valuable property in the silence of the night; second ald up sick for over two months, practically helpless; third, robbed of over a year's wages, that was just as lawfully and justly earned as the salary of the governor or member of the legislature. If this thing s going to keep on, we give notice right now that we shall want to engage the ices of Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite."

"It is a great mistake to suppose that Hon. John Martin had been seriously hurt by the new law, which cuts the remuneration of the clerk of the supreme court to \$2,000 a year," said C. J. Brown, the outgoing clerk, to Topics yesterday. vised Judge Martin, if he had the choice, to take the proposed salary rather than the fees as they now stand. In addition to the salary, he is allowed \$3,000 a year for clerk hire, which raises the receipts of the office to \$5,000. I doubt if he could secure \$5,000 a year out of fees. People hav had a greatly exaggerated idea of the earnings of this office. It used to be worth considerable money, but the establishment of the appellate courts has greatly reduced its revenues. It is the sheerest non sense to talk about the office being worth \$20,000 or \$10,000 a year. The clerk loses a large amount of the fees which he justly earns. In the litigation growing out of the boom period his losses were more than his gains. Men who went upon cost bonds became totally unable to pay, and the clerk his own earnings, but also for the cash he paid out to clerks for doing the work."

In response to "H. B. R.," of Junction City, who desires to know why the senate remained in session more than a week after the day of adjournment had come, it may be answered that the cause was entirely a political one and had for its basis the yearning of the Populists for the fleshpots of Egypt. The governor could not appoint the eight men who compose the text book commission until the new law had been published in the official state paper, which publication was made on Friday of last week. It was not necessary that the senate should confirm these appointees. The governor could have appointed them after adjournment just as well as before but in that case they could only have held office until the next meeting of the sen-ate, two years hence. The term fixed by the law is four years, and, by securing the confirmation of the senate, these men are fastened in place and cannot be disturbed by the Republican governor who is certain to be elected in two years. There is no precedent on earth for keeping a leg-islature in session eight days after it is ready to adjourn for the purpose of portioning out pie to party workers. If the law had happened to name October next as the date for going into effect. Governor Leedy would have been equally justified in keeping the legislature in session until that time.

Mr. Gladstone's Letter.

From the Philadelphia Press. In his letter on the Cretan situation Mr. Gladstone has made one of those magnificent appeals to the free moral sense of England with which for half a century he has moved the nation to great deeds and endeavor. Aged, infirm and half blind as Mr. Gladstone is, there is no sign in this letter that his mental strength has abated or his powers of persuasion have grown weak.

accustomed subtlety of argument, persplc-uous diction and lofty eloquence. Mr. Gladstone marshals the public sentiment of England in support of Greece. The Armenian massacres have made the Turkish empire a tyranny of inconceivable guilt. and the six powers have utterly failed to prevent massacre or punish it. European policy is being guided and controlled not by its free, but by its despotic govern-ments. Two of them are under free rule, says Mr. Gladstone, "of two young men, each bearing the high title of emperor, but in one case wholly without knowledge or experience, in the other having only such knowledge and experience, in truth limited enough, as have excited much astonish-ment and some consternation when an ink-ling of them has been given to the world. In one case the government is a pure and perfect despotism, and in the other equivaient to it in matters of foreign policy, so far as it can be understood in a land where freedom is indigenous, familiar and full grown."

terization is in Mr. Gladstone's best style, and its force will not be weakened by the fact that the Emperor William is nearly 40, for in spite of his mature years he has all the faults of rash youth. The inevitable logical deduction made by Mr. Gladstone is that no free country ought to aid despotism and postpone justice by acting with these despotisms to wreck the one power, Greece, which has dared to attack Turkish mas cre and misrule, and by attacking ended it

as far as Crete is concerned.

This trumpet note will sound through all Western Europe and render difficult the continued joint action of the powers; but it is not likely to rob Lord Salisbury of his majority or check the coercion of Greece.
Mr. Gladstone himself did not hesitate to
blockade every port of Greece for a month
to prevent the little power from attacking
Turkey in behalf of Macedonia. He acted then without hesitation along the line he now condemns, and the circumstance will greatly diminish the moral weight of his letter. He carefully omits in his long reto the blockade of 1886, carried on by the English fleet almost alone, and his answer then to hostile criticism was that, serious an evil as was Turkish rule in Macedonia,

Furopean war would be worse.

The same argument exists to-day. If the annexation of Crete is permitted Servia and Bulgaria will act, and this will force the hand of the other powers. Yet, if Mace-

county last week had a genuine sensation. frontier of Thessaly or if the Cretans resist the allied powers, war will come. No one of these steps can be deemed impossible though no one of them is to-day probable If the English house of commons supports Lord Salisbury as the French chamber backed M. Hanotaux, Mr. Gladstone's let ter, however, eloquent, will be fruitless The Greek government is apparently in no nood for rash adventure, and it is altogether likely that the Cretans themselves will incline toward autonomy in preference to armexation. But of the effect of Mr Gladstone's letter on England, France and Italy there can be no doubt. In all thre it will aid the cause of freedom and check the supremacy of despotism in the council chamber of Europe.

Emperor William's New Functions. From the Chicago Tribune.

One of the prerogatives generally conceded to royalty and court circles is to impress their customs on the formal social life of the capitals of the world. The pro cess of imitation carried on through the various social strata finally extends the sway of these conventionalities until, with certain necessary modifications and limitations, they become all engrossing. The ourt of the German emperor probably has been less potential in this respect than that of Victoria, yet the influence of its example is occasionally great enough to warrant some apprehension lest the latest vagary credited to it should gain a recognized standing among the social leaders of the rest of the world. The Daily Mail, of London, records the incident referred to in an article on the personal manners

in the social swim. It says: "Pinching guests and trying to trip them with his sword are among the antics at-

tributed to the sovereign."

the emperor when he indulges in a plunge

It will be apparent at once that the introduction of these two forms of social diversion would be attended with much wkwardness in the United States. An American host, of querse, would not be able to trip up his guests with a sword, because Americans do not wear swords, but even if a cane or umbrella were substituted it would require long practice on the part of the tripper and the trippee to go through the performance with the grace and serenity essential to all important social functions. It does not seem probable that proficiency could ever be attained in this difficult feat by enough persons to insure the popularity of the custom. As to "pinching guests," excellence might be nore easily reached, but the temper of the average American of either sex would make the practice, even as a social function, extremely hazardous. It would be necessary to adjust pinches with nice observance of the endurance of the pinchee otherwise involuntary ejaculations of pain would inevitably ensue, to the detriment of the social event. Occasions would surely arise, moreover, when the persons pinched would retaliate with chairs or any other weapon convenient, which would se riously mar the amenities of the occasion It is to be hoped that the German emperor will not press this social innovation and will resort to less dangerous novelties in the treatment of his guests.

Don't Blinder the Horse.

From the Chicago Chronicle.

The use of blinders on horses has been discussed exhaustively in the Chronicle by experts in horse training, by dealers in horse equipments and by others who have given the subject mature thought. The various articles in the Chronicle have attracted deserved attention from all who are interested in the nature and qualities of the animal which is the nearest, most serviceable and most intelligent friend of

No other animal employed by man in his service is subject to the use and humiliation of a partial deprivation of eyesight. The horse possesses remarkable in-telligence. In some of his acts the impulses of animal instinct appear to have almost the inspiration of human reason. To half destroy or to prevent the sense of sight in this superior animal is a violation of one of the highest laws of nature. A horse in the full possession of all his

or never transgress the laws of his ownural powers of design and action he will be obedient to his master's will. He will exhibit a serious desire and intent to per-A blindered horse is half disabled to perform the duty which he owes to his

master. This is his master's own fault. It is like expecting a hobbled horse to run like a horse free from shackles and the Half the accidents which occur from runaway horses are caused by the fact that they cannot see the objects which they meet or they get a distorted view that causes alarm. A horse that can see everything will be scared at nothing unless it is an uncommonly frightful object. The horse owner and driver should depend more on the intelligence of the

half-hoodwinked condition of the horse that he is driving. A Shirking Pretender.

From the New York Sun.

animal and on his own skill of manage-

ment with the reins and voice than on the

Nobody who remembers the lamentable fall of the Hon. William Alfred Peffer from the seat of power, on account of his failing to make more than 439 speeches during nearly six years in the senate, can refrain from a feeling of lively concern for the Hon. William Vincent Allen, another Populist of fame and senator in congress from Nebraska. Tuesday Mr. Allen made a feepretense of industry, and introduced eighty-four bills in the senate. Does he think that his constituents sent him to congress to do nothing? Does he think that they are going to be satisfied with a beggarly eighty-four bills a day? They expect him to work hard and to think all the time. A Populist senator of ordinary powers and industry ought to be able to produce not less than 125 bills every working day. A Populist senator who cannot maintain that average ought to resign. He doesn't know his business. Is this world so satisfactory to Mr. Allen that he cannot find in it at least 750 things a week which need to be changed, shaken up and improved? Change everything; abolish everything; amend everything. That is the programme for a Populist lawmaker who is worthy of his trade. The Hon. William Vincent Allen may mean particularly well, but it is clear that he lacks either industry or inventiveness. He will have to turn out more work or be turned out himself.

Oh, merciful Fate, tell me truly, I beg, Is it so they've discovered the bicycle leg? Is it true that the wheel-shackled leg has a place
With the monkey-back spine and the bicycle face?

Can it be that the queenly American girl.

Whom we've known as a dream in the
waltz's mad whirl.

Now bumps through the dance with a hop
and a halt.

That's a cross 'twixt a jig and a kangaroo's vault?

Oh, put not this cup to our lips, we im-Whate'er else of woe cruel fate has in store; Here's a toast to the bicycle face, but we beg.
Save, oh, save our pet girls from the bicycle leg! —New York Sun.

Quite English.

From the New York Press.

British tourist-"Well, old chap, good-by, doncher know; hi'm hoff for Denver. Stop in New York one day, doncher know." Ambassador Bayard—"Aw-good-by, deah y; h'and don't forget to run hover to Niagara Falls h'and back in the awfter

More of the Horrors of Pagilism. From the Chicago Tribune

"Prizefighting." remarked Rivers, "is get-"How?" asked Brooks. "A baid head has taken the front seat."

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

The White House mail is enormous, and s many as 800 letters a day are received Only the most important of these are read by the president. The requests for autographs are scarcely numerable. Patches for bed quilts and lunch cloths add to the burden. Begging letters, for numbers, take the second place in the president's mail. They come from every part of the land and relate to every possible subject. Some are appeals to aid the writer to get an education, or to pay off a mortgage, or to buy a piano or a pony; and no form of public appeal is absent-to aid the buildin of churches, to endow schools, to build monuments and to aid every other good purpose for which men and women or chiliren associate themselves.

Dr. Weir Mitchell of Philadelphia tells the following story on himself: "Walle traveling in England," he said, "I fell into conversation with a stranger who proved to be a man of great intelligence and culture We discussed recent novels, on which we spoke with much freedom. I expressed my pinion of 'Tess,' some parts of which I thought were very melo-dramatic, especial mphasis being laid on the first part of the compound word, 'In fact,' I said, 'they are so mellow that they approach the stage of rottenness.' As we were parting the gentleman said, 'You may be interested in knowing that my name is Thomas Har-

As everyone knows, there isn't a hair on President McKinley's face. He is in the style. He carries us back to the ante-bellum fashion of the White House. With the exception of Martin Van Buren, there was never a president before Lincoln who wore a heard. Van Buren had small patches of hair on his cheeks. General Taylor's hair descended low before his ears, but could not be called a beard. Lincoln was the first president to wear a beard, and Grant the first to wear a mustache. All the presidents since Johnson have had beards or mustaches, or

A letter from R. L. Stevenson to a Dr. Bakewell, written in 1894, has recently appeared in a New Zealand paper. Dr. Bakewell wrote to Mr. Stevenson to tell him of a New Zealand boy who, when asked if he had read "Treasure Island," replied; "Every boy's read 'Treasure Island. read it four times." Dr. Bakewell wrote that if the author of the book did not appreciate such a compliment, he must be "more than human." Stevenson in his re-Stevenson in his reply said: "Dear Dr. Bakewell, I am not more than human, I am more human than is wholly convenient."

New York experts who have for years figured on the best method of improving bicycle paths have issued estimates showing that a first-class bicycle path can be made for \$125 a mile and kept in repair for very little. Where good roads repair for very little. Where good roads seem to be hopeless on account of official inaction; they advise that wheelmen get together and build a good bicycle path alongside a bad road. It need only be five feet wide, and will be an object less that will sooner or later result in the road itself being improved. The benefit of track elevation is shown

in the steady decrease of railroad fatali-ties inside the limits of Chicago from 1893 to 1896. In 1893 169 persons were killed and 588 wounded; 1894, 131 killed, 432 wounded; 1896, 102 killed, 333 wounded. In 1896 there was a slight increase over the figures of previous year, but this was not due to grade crossings. The total for the four years was 507 killed and 1,709 wounded. One can conjecture only as to the rise and progress of a contest between two modern battleships. A scientist has figured

on the result on the crew of one of these ships were it to fire all its guns continuously. He says that in five minutes the auricular apparatus of all hands would be permanently affected and in twenty utes every man would be in a state of un-Women's rights seems to be extensively shared in some pa

to a notice published in the Piscataquis Observer: "Remember the substantial dinner-baked beans, brown bread, pastry, etc.-to be served at Relief Corps hall, North street, Foxcroft. Voters, 15 cents; non-voters-meaning minors, Indians, paupers, idiots and women-10 cents." A Polish chemist is said to have invented

an anesthetic which volatilizes rapidly on exposure to the air, rendering the persons near unconscious for a long time. A pellet broken under a man's nose put him to sleep for four hours. It is asserted that in warfare bombs charged with this material will make large bodies of an enemy incapable of resistance. There have been 283 popes, only eleven of whom have reigned more than

years. The present Pope, Leo XIII., has reigned nineteen years. The longest reign was that of Pope Plus IX., who reigned thirty-two years, refuting the popular superstition that no one pope would occury the throne more than twenty-five An English steamship company is about to make a novel departure. It has ordered a steamship to be built for the "sole use of

invalids." It is to be a vessel of the largest

class, fitted up with great luxury, devoted

entirely to the service of wealthy sufferers who are afflicted with pulmonary troubles who can only prolong life in the dry, salubrious climate of perpetual summer. George H. White, the only colored man in the present house of representatives, is a graduate of Howard university, and the alumni of the institution intend soon to give a reception in his honor. While he was a student in Howard university he also

studied law, and has been practicing ever since in his home, in Tarboro, N. C. There is a man in England whose water lionaire, who lives near a village. Not liking the local water, he had a special conduit built for himself at a cost of \$400,000, though he resides there only three

months a year. The most valuable spots on the face of the earth are believed to be the four cor ners in New York where Wall street touches Broad, Not long ago 31,500,000 was paid for five lots on Broadway, opposite Bowling Green.

Miss Ellen Hinsdale, daughter of Profes sor Hinsdale, of Michigan university, has just received the degree of Ph. D. from the Gottingen university, the first woman to receive the degree in philology at Got

The Women's Christian Temperance Union, of Battle Creek, Mich., is in a quandary. It has received a bequest of money from a notorious saloonkeeper who has just died.

Herbert Spencer has refused the offer of Cambridge university to make him a Doctor of Science on the ground that he has always declined to accept such honors.

Mr. Cleveland al Fresco. From the New York Press.

"Which one," inquired the pompous indi-vidual with the gun, puffing for breath after his run, "is Davy" The little Princeton boys who had been interrupted in their game on the fields gazed at him inquiringly. "None of us!"

"Den't deceive me!" whooped the pompous one. "I distinctly herrd one of you holler, 'Duck on Davy!" Where He Got It.

From the Chicago Tribune.

"I've given up the idea of trying to break Willie of using coarse slang."

"Can't you keep him off the streets?" "Yes, that's easy enough, but I can't keep him from reading Sam Jones' ser-